

2017 -- H 6237

LC002548

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2017

HOUSE RESOLUTION

RESPECTFULLY REQUESTING THE RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (RIDE) TO STUDY THE IMPACT, OUTCOME, AND NEEDS OF YOUTHS WITH ONE OR BOTH PARENTS INCARCERATED

Introduced By: Representatives Ranglin-Vassell, Hull, Donovan, Amore, and Shekarchi

Date Introduced: May 19, 2017

Referred To: House Health, Education & Welfare

1 WHEREAS, The National Survey of Children's Health has concluded that more than 5
2 million children -- or one in 14 children living in the United States -- have at one time or another
3 experienced parental incarceration. Currently, approximately 2.7 million children are living and
4 dealing with the issues resulting from the incarceration of one or both of their parents, and one-
5 third of them will reach age 18 while a parent is behind bars; and

6 WHEREAS, The collateral effect on these children is oftentimes feelings of
7 abandonment, loneliness, and shame, which for some children, can lead them down the same
8 destructive path to incarceration as their parents; and

9 WHEREAS, Studies have also indicated that parental incarceration has a negative effect
10 on a child's academic performance and outcome; and

11 WHEREAS, According to a 2013 report from the American Bar Association and the
12 White House, only 1 percent to 2 percent of students with incarcerated mothers and 13 percent to
13 25 percent of students with imprisoned fathers graduate from college; and

14 WHEREAS, Proper assessment, and apposite educational programs and intervention, can
15 play an important role and provide positive outcomes in the promotion of healthy child
16 development and the prevention of recidivism and delinquency; now, therefore be it

17 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and
18 Providence Plantations hereby respectfully requests the Rhode Island Department of Education to
19 study the impact, outcome, and needs of youths with one or both parents incarcerated; and be it

1 further

2 RESOLVED, That this House hereby requests that a report be provided to the Speaker of
3 the House and the House Committee on Health, Education & Welfare on or before January 3,
4 2019: and be it further

5 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
6 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Ken Wagner, Ph.D., Rhode Island
7 Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education.

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